

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 02813 251905Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ADS-00 SSO-00 PA-02 ICAE-00 CA-01
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O R 251830Z JUN 79
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1501
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS MANAGUA 2813

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: CDES, NU (STEWART, WILLIAM)
SUBJECT: PERSONAL EFFECTS OF WILLIAM STEWART

1. RE WILLIAM STEWART'S DEATH, ABC CORRESPONDENT KILLED IN MANAGUA JUNE 20, 1979, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPT. CONFIRM FROM ABC SUBJECT'S EXACT NAME AND DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH AS HIS PASSPORT WAS NEVER RECOVERED BY THIS EMBASSY.

2. THE ONLY PERSONAL EFFECTS BELONGING TO MR. STEWART SECURED BY THIS EMBASSY CONSIST OF A SUITCASE AND A CARRY-ON BAG CONTAINING CLOTHING, TOILETRIES, AN OLYMPUS MODEL SP35 CAMERA, PERSONAL PAPERS, AND A VIDEOTAPE CASSETTE ON THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION. POST REQUEST THE DEPT. CONTACT THE WIDOW TO FIND OUT IF SHE WANTS THE COMPLETE EFFECTS AIR FREIGHTED TO HER OR IF SHE WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE ONLY THE CAMERA AND VIDEO TAPE WHICH COULD BE SENT BY POUCH TO THE DEPT. FOR FORWARDING TO HER AT MINIMAL COST. THE AIRFREIGHTING WOULD CONSIST OF SENDING THE EFFECTS FROM MANAGUA TO PANAMA ON ONE OF OUR EVAC. FLIGHTS AND THEN AIRFREIGHT TO THE U.S. THE DEPT. WOULD HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR WHETHER ABC OR MRS. STEWART PERSONALLY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BILLING AND IF THE EFFECTS ARE TO BE INSURED.

3. THE POST HAS NO CURRENT PHONE NUMBER FOR MRS. STEWART.
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 02813 251905Z

THE ONLY ADDRESS PROVIDED WAS 2 BECKMAN PLACE, NEW YORK CITY. IN THE EVENT MRS. STEWARD DOES NOT WANT TO RECEIVE THE ENTIRE CONTENTS, IT WOULD BE SUGGESTED THAT SHE MAY WANT TO DONATE THE CLOTHES AND TOILETRIES TO THE LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTER.

4. FYI, MR. STEWARD WAS UNDER THE DIRECT OBSERVATION OF AN

ABC NEWS TEAM IMMEDIATELY BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE TIME OF HIS DEATH. HE WAS TAKEN TO THE LOCAL MORTUARY IN AN ABC NEWS TRUCK. TWO MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF, NCOIC SGT. PETER DELANDERO AND AN USICA PAO JAMES FITZGERALD OBSERVED THE TRANSFER OF THE BODY FROM THE ABC NEWS TRUCK TO THE MORTUARY. BOTH NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO WATCH OR WEDDING RING ON THE BODY AT THE TIME OF THE TRANSFER. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT MR. STEWART APPEARED TO BE WEARING A DIFFERENT SHIRT WHEN HE WAS MOVED TO THE MORGUE THAN THAT WHICH HE WAS WEARING IN THE ABC VIDEOTAPE OF THE FATAL SHOOTING. STEWART'S EFFECTS WERE TAKEN FROM HIS HOTEL ROOM(S) BY MEMBERS OF THE NEWSMEDIA, AND WERE PART OF A LARGE SHIPMENT OF NEWS EQUIPMENT AND BAGGAGE WHICH COULD NOT BE INCLUDED ON THE JUNE 21 EVACUATION FLIGHT BECAUSE OF SPACE AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS. THE BAGS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND DURING AN INVENTORY OF THIS SHIPMENT AT THE EMBASSY WAREHOUSE. THE BAGS WERE SECURED BY CONSULAR OFFICERS AT THAT TIME. STEWART'S PASSPORT WAS NOT RECOVERED FROM EITHER THE BODY OR THE PERSONAL EFFECTS. AN ABC NEWSPERSON GAVE ONE HOTEL KEY (INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ROOM 441) TO A CONOFF. ANOTHER HOTEL KEY (ROOM 439) WAS FOUND IN THE BAGS. THE CONOFFS WERE UNABLE TO EXAMINE EITHER ROOM (A) BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF TRAVEL IN MANAGUA AND (B) BECAUSE THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL IS NOW CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. THERE WERE NO OTHER KEYS OF ANY TYPE ON EITHER THE BODY OR IN THE LUGGAGE.

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